

INTRODUCTION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Washington Center Strategic Plan Portfolio

The Washington Center School Strategic Plan is a document to mirror the mission, vision and instructional directionality that was developed to drive our program direction. As a special school, we have not traditionally participated in the SACS review until the 2008-09 school year. Along with the School District of Greenville County, Washington Center achieved SACS Accreditation. Our school is also responsible for an annual School Renewal Plan. The Strategic Plan contents are developed to meet requirements of the annual SACS Accreditation, School Renewal Plan and to document the changes and progress our school has made while working to continuously improve in all areas. The Strategic Plan provides our staff with an ongoing means for self-assessment, communication, continuous improvement, and accountability.

The sections of this document are based upon Greenville County School's requirements for Strategic Planning. Contents for each section were altered as necessary to reflect the uniqueness of our instructional requirements. The information presented was included on the premise of presenting Washington Center as a quality school with aspirations of continuous improvement. Within each category is a description of the intent of the category, a brief summary of where we are as a school, and our next steps. Chapters are updated within the context and/or summarized with reflections regarding the current status and future challenges.

The chapters utilized in this school portfolio are—

- Executive Summary
- Information and Analysis
- Student Achievement
- Quality Planning
- Professional Development
- Leadership
- Partnership Development
- Continuous Improvement and Evaluation
- Appendix

This Strategic Plan is a living document that describes the uniqueness of Washington Center as both a school and a cutting edge facility for the disabled population. Included are our vision for the school, goals, plans, progress, and achievements in the context of our needs, partnerships and student demographics. Like a puzzle, our Strategic Plan describes how all the working components drive functional instruction for our students.

During the six year tenure on our campus, our student population has increased along with updates in technology and state of the art instructional strategies. The focus on providing opportunities for developing student independence and quality of life has continued with a new emphasis on standards-based academic instruction. During the time on our main campus and with the addition of our extended campus, Washington Center at Hollis, we have realized the importance of joining staff, parents and the community in our quest.

Student achievements are reflected in improved IEP mastery scores paralleled by parent and staff involvement. The Washington Center staff is experiencing exciting horizons with the fourth year of our new principal. The staff is actively involved in reformulating and updating our policies and procedures while maintaining our commitment to the students we serve. Using a base of experience and research, strategic planning teams were involved in our continuous commitment to extend our pride to Washington Center.

The strategic plan has provided an introspective opportunity to view our progress as well as our challenges. We summarized our greatest accomplishments as:

1. Providing a functional, productive instructional program
 - Securing and utilizing up- to-date assistive technology materials
 - Supporting effective instructional strategies through training opportunities
2. Exceeding goals for maintaining levels of student achievement
 - IEP mastery percentages results improved to 95.5%, evidencing a .5% increase from the previous year
 - SC-Alternate Assessment baseline scores of Level 2 and above averaged 64% denoting a 7% increase from the previous year
3. Working toward our standards for quality faculty

- 96% of our faculty has achieved Highly Qualified status
 - 100% of our faculty has achieved state approved Technology Proficiency
4. Improvement in school climate by enhancing parent and community involvement
- A total of 29 current partnerships have been established
 - Seventeen grant receipts have enhanced funding for the current school year
 - Parent satisfaction Strategic Plan survey responses average 4.66% out of 5.00%

Many of our accomplishments evolve into challenges in our efforts to provide the best instructional program for our students, families and community:

1. Maintain continued student progress in IEP achievement and Alternate Assessment scores
2. Provide staff development/ training
 - Cultural diversity and cohesiveness
 - Instructional strategies such as behavior management
 - Student achievement increases in both IEP mastery and SC-Alt score averages
3. Meet the criteria mandated by the *No Child Left Behind* legislation
 - Continuation of our exemplary program and strategies that qualified for 44.4% of AYP objectives during the 2009-10 school year
 - Support faculty in achieving Highly Qualified status and Technology Proficiency
 - Provide quality instruction in modified regular education standards
4. Continue the research and acquisition of instructional strategies and technology

- Research technology feasibility for special needs instruction
- Provide staff development for technology usage
- Continue activities to gain acceptance and recognition in our community
- Establish new business partnerships
- Submit grants to fund technology purchases

Our Strategic Plan is a comprehensive treasure developed by our stakeholders in a school-wide effort. In a team approach, staff developers met as small committees to compile sections through the SAC. Contributors also included parent and community representatives through PTA and SIC. We invite you to enjoy this story of how we developed, who we are now and where we are going. The pages detail our resolution to be a nurturing environment purposed to unfold student potential through functional instructional opportunities.

As you read the pages in this document, you will see the story of a very unique program that serves the Greenville County's most severely mentally and physically disabled students. As our school mascot demonstrates, our staff believes that all of our students can "fly higher than a seagull." This is their story and the story of a staff dedicated to meeting the individualized needs of each child.

The Staff of Washington Center



Washington Center, Opened August, 2005